

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 are amended. Claims 2 and 4 are canceled. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found in at least the original claims, page 19, line 9-page 20, line 15, of the specification and Fig. 7. The remaining amendments are for form. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

The Abstract is objected to because it exceeds 150 words and references 3 and K are not enclosed within parenthesis. By this Amendment, in accordance with the Office Action's suggestion, the Abstract is amended. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 09-250068 (Sakakibara). As claims 2 and 4 are canceled, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 3, and 6.

In particular, Sakakibara fails to disclose "the cloth holding frame is arranged so that a length in the second direction is greater than a length in the first direction; and the control unit, when printing the workpiece cloth, controls the frame drive unit so that an acceleration/deceleration area of the second drive mechanism where a change in rotational speed of the stepping motor occurs is arranged at both ends of the second direction within the cloth holding frame, and controls the printer to execute printing operation exclusive of the acceleration/deceleration area," as recited in claim 1.

Sakakibara discloses an embroidery sewing machine. Sakakibara discloses the embroidery frame 7 in which a length in a X direction is greater than a length in a Y direction (Fig. 2). Sakakibara also discloses that a print processing is carried out in a rectangle range 27 when the embroidery frame 7 is moved to the X direction (paragraphs [0027]-[0032] and

Fig. 8). In addition, Sakakibara discloses that whenever it carries out horizontal migration of the embroidery frame in the direction of X, band-like print processing can be carried out with the ink jet mechanism 17 (paragraph [0032]). Further, Sakakibara discloses that whenever the embroidery frame is shifted in the Y direction, the horizontal migration and the printing process are carried out (*Id.*). However, Sakakibara is silent about an acceleration/deceleration area where a change in rotational speed of the stepping motor occurs. Sakakibara is also silent about how to print in the acceleration/deceleration area. Thus, Sakakibara fails to disclose above feature.

Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Sakakibara. Further, claims 3 and 6 are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) as being unpatentable over Sakakibara in view of Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2004-034667 (Tanno). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

This rejection is presumed upon the presumption that Sakakibara discloses the above discussed features of claim 1. As discussed above, Sakakibara fails to disclose at least these features. Further, Tanno fails to make up for the deficiency of Sakakibara. Thus, the rejection is improper. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:
Amended Abstract

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